

## A THRIVING LITTLE TOWN

## THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF SARDIS, MISS.

Leading Business Houses—The County Buildings—The Local Legal Luminaries.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE APPEAL.

SARDIS, Miss., April 12.—This, one of the most important commercial points in Northern Mississippi, does not, like other towns on the Mississippi and Tennessee roads, impress the traveler with the fact that it is a town. But the traveler who wishes to analyze Sardis must do as I have done, alight and visit its thriving streets, stores, homes and institutions and become acquainted with its citizens. The town has a population of about 1000 souls, fully two-thirds being of the Caucasian race. It is situated on the Tennessee river, and is the terminus of the Memphis and Tennessee railroad to this point in 1886. Belmont having previously been the nearest village. A learned blacksmith at that time became its godfather, and in memory of one of the severest Apocalyptic churches named it Sardis. At this writing the town swept by a cyclone of religious fervor is more than ever deserving its title. The town is a beautiful, an imposing structure, was built during the Republican time, and cost \$20,000. With the exception of the platting, which is defective in places, the building is in good condition and well suited for the various offices for which it was designed. The main court-room is a spacious hall about eighty feet square and forty feet in height. It is well lighted, and is well furnished with substantial, "neat and not gaudy" pieces of furniture. Sessions are held twice a week by the Hon. A. T. Ryan, circuit judge, and the Hon. J. G. (a) Chambers, respectively. Of the county officers, Charles Taylor is clerk, J. S. & B. Chambers, County Clerk, and J. E. Ryan, deputy. Both of the latter offices are colored men, and very intelligent, holding the respect of all.

The city officials are: J. H. Hooper, Mayor; H. M. Parrish, City Clerk; J. H. Hooper, City Clerk; G. C. Harmon, Marshal; J. Maddox, J. Q. West, W. H. Egan, J. F. Hightower, Aldermen. The town is a colored man. It is in its infancy and there are no "oldsters" on its soil.

Jack's nursery is well worth a visit, if for no other reason than that it shows what can be accomplished by diligent labor on this yellow friable soil. When Robert Jackson started a law year ago with a piece of one mile north of town as rough and unpromising as could well be, he had everybody thought him crazy. He seemed with yawning gullies, but he has not only filled all the gullies, but where they were he has now fifty acres of an earthly Eden, with fruit trees and shrubs, a fishing pond, and a well-fitted hot house, and one of the lions of Sardis. I have it is the only nursery between Memphis and the extreme South.

regards business the Bank of the city has paid up capital of \$167,450. The officers are R. H. Taylor, president; J. H. Hooper, vice president; W. H. Egan, cashier. It is located in a substantial brick block 75 by 120 feet, and contains Wall's operation. The annual volume of business is \$300,000, and during the season of 7000 bales of cotton are shipped to New York. The following is a complete list of the business houses: J. Hunter, J. R. Buchanan, son & West, Williams Brothers & Spain, Mrs. F. F. Fabel, & Co., F. P. Hill, S. P. Patton, Carlton & Son, W. J. Richards, Alton, all general stores. J. F. Fennell, Hardware. Bro. R. P. Jenkins are the druggists. J. Wall and J. P. Ryan, hardware. A. F. Minor, E. Matson and Hightower, machinists and blacksmiths. A. W. Rudolph, jeweler; Miss Rosen and Mrs. Hedden, dry goods and millinery; W. T. Dye and W. T. Dye, meat market; H. Deelman, baker.

There are two good livery and sale stables, owned by Mrs. Farthing and Rice, respectively. The town is remarkably healthy, even the four physicians—Dr. H. Henderson, J. D. and Dunlap, and local legal luminaries are prominent. Gen. J. R. Chambers is well known to need any description. I am told he is content to relinquish legislative honors to some other Mr. Taylor is, as before noted, a member of the R. R. Commission, and is the firm of Booth & Co. is State Senator. Miller & Water played in all courts, and W. W. Duval makes a specialty of dancing and fire insurance, he is a member of the firm of E. S. and Co., lumber merchants.

W. H. Waller and Mr. Andrew are builders. The town is marked in Sardis—large, round and tall. His buildings, including the edifice before mentioned, are handsome and speak his praise. J. M. Sammis, the postmaster, is a favorite on account of his wit and obliging ways. There are many delightful residences in and around Sardis. One of the most comfortable and hearty of his owners. I need mention those of Gen. Chambers, J. H. Henderson, J. D. and Dunlap, and Mr. W. W. Wall, Mr. Walcott, and Mrs. McCracken. The latter house I was very much pleased by Mr. W. T. Dye, who is a well known resident, and the APPEAL mission with cordiality. Chancellor Hall's mansion was, as I wrote you last, since my first visit, burned to ground, and the Judge is now, though he tells me he will rebuild on the old site. He has a number of Jersey cattle, while Taylor believes in the Holstein "Doe" Henderson is the proprietor of two or three thoroughbred horses of which he is justly

Sardis Hotel, Houston & Draper, is a good "rest for the weary." It is the regular eating stand for the managers know how to their patrons, both as to quality and quantity. I am not surprised to find travelers, the drummers, make a point of spending a night at this hotel. They have a good experience.

There are two newspapers here. The one is the *Memphis Star*, established in 1858, and is the official paper of the city. The other is the *Memphis Appeal*, published by Mr. A. B. Treadwell, the publisher. The *Southern* has been recently imported from London, Ky. It is published by F. and P. N. Simmons, Judge of the circuit, is a poet (fiction) author of two very fine books, *The Wild Link* and

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## THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

## OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF HER ADVANCEMENT.

The Injustice of Men's Laws—The Position of Notary Public—A Case in Point.

To the Editors of the Appeal:

Theodore Parker once said, "He who will not reason is a bigot, he who cannot reason is a fool, and he who dares not reason is a coward."

I address myself to that number who dare to sweep the cobwebs of prejudice from their mind and look facts in the face, with the calm unpassioned gaze of true common sense.

Then, in face of the fact that women are holding the office of notary public in many places, why will men act as they do in regard to Mrs. M. E. Conaway? It is largely due to man and the results of their own laws that women have been forced into new fields of labor. If there had been a question of law that could have been brought to bear on her removing the position of real estate agent, the same fight against her would have been made. I am morally certain she has fitted herself thoroughly for an office of notary, or else she would not have applied for it; and it comes with ill grace from men to refer to the fact concerning large moneyed interests being involved as was done on her first application, seeing how much malice in office has been shown in Shelby county where the officeholders are of the masculine gender, and it needs only a brief review of woman's work to see that in this very respect she has been held in high esteem as a public worker.

If the proverb be true that "the pen is mightier than the sword," woman's skill and force in using that mightier weapon must eventually change the doctrine of the world. The progress made in thirty-eight years, since the first law passed in New York lifting women in one thing from under the old common law, has been simply wonderful.

In that first convention they demanded equal rights in the universities, in all trades and professions, to complete equality in marriage, to personal freedom, property, wages, children, to make contracts, to sue and be sued, and to testify in courts of justice. In every State in the Union the common law was repealed, and the condition of married women was in a sense as degraded as it could well be, only that men, in the mass, are always better than their laws. But in my humble opinion, where a wrong is to be righted, one line of law is worth more than any number of this side the middle ages. "Why do you women meddle in politics?" asked Napoleon III. "De Stael. 'Sire,' was her reply, "if you will hang us by law we want to know the reason why." So these advanced thinkers among women made the additional one of holding the law-making power, the ballot, in their own hands.

Money, or financial interest, at least, has done much to change the law; for this first bill that was passed in New York, giving property rights to married women, grew out of the fact that great dispirited women, among the aristocratic Dutch families, and the thrifty old farmers found their hard-earned dollars flying like mits in the hands of mischievous sons-in-law, and this caused influential people to second the reformers, and Judge Fessenden drew up the bill, and was very active in securing its passage "from strong personal motives."

The New England States, under the women's rights agitation, was prompt in enacting some of her laws against men; and the new Territories came into the confederation of States with laws far ahead of the older States. It seems that the ever-changing West reflects itself upon the silent, unchanging East, and induces the throwing off of its old customs. Witness the results of the Legislature of Washington Territory, where the fall ballot is in the hands of women, and highly favored by the men too. The legislative campaign sums up results thus:

"The scientific temperance bill adopted unanimously in both houses. The local option bill passed despite tremendous pressure brought to bear against it. High license clause defeated; no too was the slight to defeat the Sunday law and the attempt to relieve women of jury duty. The age of consent was raised from ten to sixteen years."

Again and again I am told or asked, what can a few women do? I ask, what cannot women do? I ask, what spirit that animated Elizabeth Blackwell in her invasion of the medical school forty years ago?

I copy you a letter written by her to my dear old friend Emily T. Collins of New Haven. The following extract shows the noble spirit, as nothing else can.

"My whole life is devoted unreservedly to my sex. The study and practice of medicine is, in my thought, but one means to a great end, for which my soul yearns with intense passion by day and night. I have dreamed by day and night of my earliest childhood, for which I would offer up my life with triumphant thanksgiving, if martyrdom could secure that glorious end—the true enlightenment of woman—the full harmonious development of her unknown nature, and the consequent redemption of the whole human race. Earth waits her queen." The whole of her letter is so beautiful, so true, so just I would gladly give it all. Circumstances favoring I desire to follow this paper with a series of articles giving some facts concerning the changes in the human constitution that will interest many, from the fact that they are not generally referred to in a spirit of just criticism, but of rampant scorn. Evolution is the law of all things and nothing can stay its progress. I wish our lawyers will remember that Missouri gave to Phoebe Constantine her admission to the bar without dissent, and Harriet Homer found in its medical school the first door that would open to her as a sculptor, and in its professor Dr. McDowell a staunch friend.

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Stricken With Apoplexy. NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., April 13.—Dr. J. H. Arnett, aged seventy years, superintendent of the American Express Company, died to day from the effects of a stroke of apoplexy.

There was a general demand for extra copies of Sunday's APPEAL, containing the Coldwater concert. The Arkansas concert. Friday night was a musical and financial success.

In the Dear Old Days. We differ in creed and politics, but we are a unit in the cry on the desirableness of a fine head of hair. If you mourn the loss of this blessing and ornament, a bottle or two of Parker's Hair Balsam will make you look as you did in the dear old days. It is worth trying. The only standard 50 cents article for the hair.

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HARKAWAY—Dark brown stallion, 10 hands high, by Enquirer, dam Rurles by Rurles. Marked by won great Post Stakes, St. Louis, 1878, 2 mile heats, in 3:35 and 3:25, and the following day won the German Cup, mile heats, in 1:45 and 1:42. Is horse of the style and sure foot. (Getter E. C. 2).

BOLTON—By Triton (own brother to Trickett-2:34), dam Miss Butler, dam of Mand Butler, breeder a cert. Beat 2:28, as 3 year old. Bolton is a ch. blood bay, 3 years old, 15 1/2 high, level edited, and promises great speed. Fee, \$15.

ROBERT B. BERRY—Brown ch. dark bay trotting and pacing stallion, winner of First Prize at Knoxville, 1884 hands high, sired by Boy Dice, by Lexington. Fee, \$10.

BLACK PINE—Registered A. I. C. C. Jersey Bull.

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